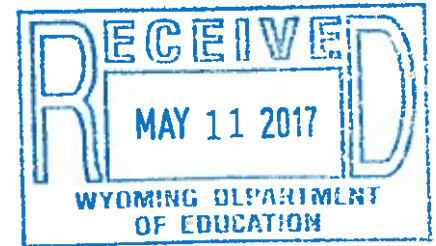


MATTHEW H. MEAD  
GOVERNOR



2323 Carey Avenue  
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

## Office of the Governor



May 10, 2017

The Honorable Jillian Balow  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Superintendent Balow,

Thank you for your letter in support of the ENDOW effort. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the selection of the Executive Council.

Throughout March and April my office solicited public comment on ENDOW. Responses played a role in the selection of members of the ENDOW Executive Council. Hundreds of Wyoming citizens took the time to submit comments and offered to assist in the effort. Considerations included areas of discipline, demonstrated commitment to Wyoming, knowledge and expertise. There were more qualified applicants than available slots. As we set up various working groups we will integrate these applicants into places where they can contribute. There are multiple roles for a wide array of individuals within the ENDOW initiative.

It is critical that individuals with an effective role in public education are included in the Executive Council. Jerimiah Rieman has met with the Career Readiness Council, representatives of the Community Colleges and the University of Wyoming. He will continue to work with them as we move forward. Mary Ellbogen Garland and the Ellbogen Foundation have been involved in early childhood education and multiple K-12 education initiatives. The Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning touches every aspect of our education system. Bill Schilling served as the Chairman of the Advisory Panel on School Accountability and has worked to create Wyoming Excels as an avenue for the state's business community to be involved in education issues. You reference Speaker Harshman, who is on the Council, and never fails to represent public education in his work. I believe education is well represented by Mary Ellbogen Garland, Bill Schilling and Speaker Harshman.

ENDOW is a broad based effort and will have multiple working groups and individuals. The Career Readiness Council is one avenue, and I expect that individuals representing public schools will be part of the broader work.

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While school foundation funding challenges are significant, I do not expect ENDOW to address the immediate challenge. ENDOW will focus on broadening and expanding the Wyoming economy in the years to come. The school funding crisis is immediate and is being addressed by the Legislature. This is the appropriate vehicle for the school finance discussion.

Please contact Jerimiah Rieman of my office if you would like to serve on the working groups going forward. Jerimiah will also contact Dan Stephan and Brian Farmer to extend the same invitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew H. Mead', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew H. Mead  
Governor

MHM:dp